

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,398

Applicant(s)

TOUSSI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Ajay Vasudeva

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 8/11/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Joshua Randall on 10/13/2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 17

On line 1, after "An inflatable floor cushion", -- **of a kayak** -- has been inserted.

Drawings

3. Applicant is request to provide formal drawings, including proposed changes in the replacement drawings submitted 8/11/2006, which have been approved.

The formal/corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show or teach, alone or in combination:

(a) an inflatable kayak comprising an inflatable peripheral structure defining at least one buoyancy chamber having elongated side sections forming a passenger compartment, an

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inflatable floor cushion supporting a floor of the passenger compartment, the floor cushion including a top wall, a bottom wall, and at least one side gusset, wherein the surface area of the top wall is less than the surface area of the bottom wall, and, a plurality of elongated, I-beam baffles extending between the top wall and the bottom wall, wherein the height of at least one I-beams baffle measured between the top and bottom walls is greater at a midpoint of the baffle than at the end of the baffle, as set forth in claim 1, OR

(b) an inflatable floor cushion of a kayak comprising an inflatable floor cushion having top and bottom walls, and at least one gusset joining the top wall and bottom wall to define a chamber, a plurality of elongated I-beam baffles within the cushion, wherein the distance between at least two adjacent I-beam baffles along the top wall is less than the distance between the same two I-beam baffles along the bottom wall, as set forth in claim 17, OR

(c) an inflatable kayak comprising an inflatable peripheral structure defining at least one buoyancy chamber having elongated side sections forming a passenger compartment, wherein the buoyancy chamber of the peripheral structure includes a first compartment and a second compartment disposed concentrically around the first compartment, an inflatable floor cushion supporting a floor of the passenger compartment and including top and bottom walls, and at least one side gusset, wherein the surface area of the top wall is less than the surface area of the bottom wall, a plurality of elongated I-beam baffles extending longitudinally between the top and bottom walls, wherein the height of at least one I-beam baffle measured between the top and bottom walls is greater at the midpoint of the baffle than at the end of the baffle, wherein the distance between at least two I-beam baffles along the top wall is less than the distance between the same two I-beam baffles along the bottom wall, and a flexible and

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substantially inelastic cover encasing the peripheral structure and inflatable floor cushion, as set forth in claim 20.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (571) 272-6689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 12:00 -- 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ajay Vasudeva
Examiner
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PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600
Au 3617 10/16/06